

CLAIMS

1. A power distribution device for controlling and monitoring states in and around a computer network, the device comprises:
 - 5 – at least one processor,
 - at least one memory,
 - at least one sensor port for receiving a sensor signal,
 - at least one sensor, for example at least one watt meter,
 - at least one power outlet, and
 - 10 – a connection to a communication network,
 wherein the processor is operable to control said at least one outlet in response to information provided from the at least one sensor port and/or the at least one sensor and/or information provided from said communication network.
- 15 2. A power distribution device according to claim 1 wherein the memory comprises a unique ID.
3. A power distribution device according to claim 1 further comprising a connection to another power distribution device.
- 20 5. A power distribution device according to claim 1, wherein sensors are connected to the sensor port.
6. A power distribution device according to claim 5 wherein the processor is programmed
 - 25 to act according to predefined rules.
 7. A power distribution device according to claim 6 wherein the predefined rules are threshold values.
- 30 8. A power distribution device according to claim 1 wherein the processor is programmed to communicate with a data structure comprising:
 - at least one outlet block comprising data relating to an outlet,
 - at least one sensor block comprising data relating to a sensor.
- 35 9. A user interface for a user terminal connected to a computer network comprising network devices, the user interface comprises a display and at least one panel/window, wherein the at least one panel comprises one or more elements.
10. A user interface according to claim 9 wherein the user interface comprises a grouping
 - 40 functionality for the network devices, in order to be able to assign a network device to at least one specific group.
 11. A user interface according to claim 10 wherein the user interface comprises a display function which displays the network devices according to a chosen group.

12. A user interface according to claim 11 wherein the user interface comprises a display function which displays the network devices according to chosen groups.

13. A user interface according to claim 11 wherein the display function is performed by a
5 drag and drop action.

14 A user interface according to claim 9 wherein the panels/windows relates to at least one of the following type of panels/windows:

- icon list/view,
- 10 - Outlet list/view,
- Sensor list/view,
- warning list/view,
- action list/view,
- Rescan list/view,
- 15 - Power distribution unit list/view.

15. A method for collecting and storing data from unknown devices in a network environment, the network environment comprises a network, a user terminal, a home database, unknown network devices and a first database comprising usage information
20 about the unknown network devices, the method comprising the steps of:

- from the user terminal sending a request to a proxy/transparent layer for finding network devices,
- the proxy/transparent layer find and connect to unknown network devices, and
- when a unknown network device is found, collecting and storing data relating to the
25 unknown devices in the home database.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the step of connecting to an unknown network device further comprises the steps of:

- using the usage information stored in the first database for communicating with an
30 unknown device.

17. A method for creating a database comprising devices in a network, the network comprising:

- at least one user terminal,
 - 35 - a multiple of network devices and
 - at least one power distribution device comprising sensors and outlets for controlling the power to the network devices,
- the method comprises the steps of:
- scanning the network for new power distribution devices,
 - 40 - upon a request sent from the user terminal receiving at least one message from each new power distribution device,
 - assigning a belonging to the new power distribution device,
 - creating a record relating to each new device, and
 - storing the record in a database.

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18. A method according to claim 17 further comprising a step of creating an encrypted wallet file, the wallet file comprises logins and/or passwords to the devices connected to the network.

5 19. A method according to claim 17 wherein the message comprises an XML file.

20. A method according to claim 17 wherein the scanning is executed either manually or automatically at start.

10 21. A method according to claim 17 further wherein the belonging relates to at least one of the following:

- type of device,
- location of the device,
- functionality of the device,
- 15 - user defined belonging.

22. A method according to claim 17 further comprising the step of contacting devices on external networks by using the IP address or domain name of the device.

20 23. A method according to claim 17 wherein the record comprises at least one of the following:

- ip address of the device,
- name of the device,
- function of the device,
- 25 - group belonging,
- location of the device,
- outlet(s),
- loads on outlets,
- description of the device,
- 30 - sensors.

24. A method for controlling power distribution devices in a network, the network comprising:

- at least one user terminal comprising a display,
- 35 - a multiple of network devices,
- one or more power distribution devices comprising sensors and multiple outlets supplying power to the network devices,

the method comprises the steps of:

- displaying the power distribution devices and/or outlets according to a belonging of the
- 40 distribution devices and/or outlets,
- controlling the power distribution devices and/or outlets according to an action triggered by an input.

25. A method according to claim 24 wherein the belonging relates to at least one of the

45 following:

- type of device,
- location of the device,
- functionality of the device,
- owner of the device,
- 5 - user defined belonging.

26. A method according to claim 24 wherein the input preferably relates to at least one of the following:

- input from a sensor,
- 10 - input from a user,
- input from Network devices,
- input from other power distribution devices.

27. A method according to claim 24 wherein the action preferably relates to at least one of the following activities:

- power on,
- power off,
- cycle power,
- sequence up,
- 20 - sequence down, and
- user-defined power sequence.

28. A computer system comprising:

- one or more power distribution device(s) comprising power outlets,
 - 25 - a user terminal comprising a display for displaying information relating to the power outlets,
 - one or more electronic devices connected to the power outlets,
- said computer system being programmed to:
- displaying on the display, information relating to one or more of the power outlets
 - 30 - according to predetermined belongings of the power outlets.

29. A computer system according to claim 28 wherein the predetermined belongings of the outlets is chosen from a group of belongings comprising:

- type of device connected to the outlet,
- 35 - location of the device connected to the outlet,
- functionality of the device connected to the outlet,
- owner of the device connected to the outlet,
- user defined belongings,
- type of sensors.

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30. A computer system according to claims 28-29 wherein computer system further is programmed to send instructions from the user terminal to the power distribution device(s).

31. A data structure comprising:

- at least one outlet block comprising data relating to an outlet,
- at least one sensor block comprising data relating to a sensor.

5 32. A data structure according to claim 31 further comprising at least one of the following blocks:

- a network block comprising data relating to the network,
- a power distribution device block comprising data relating to the power distribution device,
- 10 - a password block,
- a sequence block comprising data relating to the order of switching outlets on or off,
- a communication block comprising data relating to sending electronic messages.

33. The data structure according to claims 31 and 32, further being adapted to being
15 transmitted over a network in order to facilitate the updating and storing of information.